

19 May 1979

UPI

P - Gilmore, Daniel

Chief of Telewire, Adm.

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Powell, Jody

(BY DANIEL GILMORE)

WASHINGTON (UPI) - THE WHITE HOUSE TODAY DISMISSED AS ANTI-SALT PROPAGANDA A NEWS REPORT THAT CIA DIRECTOR STANSFIELD TURNER DISAGREES WITH PRESIDENT CARTER ON THE ISSUE OF SALT II VERIFICATION AND INTENDS TO "UNDERCUT" HIM IN SENATE TESTIMONY.

"I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING THAT (TURNER) DISAGREES" WITH CARTER'S VIEW THAT U.S. INTELLIGENCE WILL BE ABLE TO CATCH THE SOVIETS IF THEY CHEAT ON SALT MISSILE LIMITATIONS, PRESS SECRETARY JODY POWELL SAID.

HE SAID TURNER "AGREES IT (SALT II) IS VERIFIABLE," AND ADDED, "I'M NOT AWARE OF ANY VIEW THAT ADM. TURNER WILL TESTIFY IN SUCH A WAY AS TO UNDERCUT THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION."

HE SAID THE REPORT TURNER WOULD DO SO WAS "WRITTEN BY A PERSON OR PERSONS...WILLING TO BEAR ANY BURDEN OR PAY ANY PRICE TO DEFEAT THE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT."

POWELL WAS COMMENTING ON A SYNDICATED COLUMN PUBLISHED TODAY BY ROWLAND EVANS AND ROBERT NOVAK, WHO SAID TURNER IS PREPARING TESTIMONY FOR THE SENATE "MAKING CLEAR THAT RUSSIA CAN INDEED CHEAT" ON SALT II, THE NUCLEAR ARMS TREATY CARTER AND SOVIET PRESIDENT LEONID BREZHNEV PLAN TO SIGN NEXT MONTH.

"TURNER'S VOLUMINOUS BRIEF, STILL SECRET, HAS STUNNED THE WHITE HOUSE BY SHARPLY DISAGREEING WITH THE PRESIDENT," THE COLUMN SAID.

LAST MONTH, TURNER TOLD A CLOSED SESSION OF THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE IT WOULD TAKE FOUR YEARS TO REPLACE THE INTELLIGENCE MONITORING CAPABILITIES THE UNITED STATES LOST IN IRAN.

THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS TESTIMONY WAS LEAKED TO THE PRESS, AND DEFENSE SECRETARY HAROLD BROWN QUICKLY ISSUED A CLARIFICATION TO THE EFFECT THAT THE IRANIAN STATIONS DID MUCH MORE THAN JUST MONITOR SOVIET MISSILE TESTS.

BROWN SAID IT WILL TAKE FOUR YEARS TO REPLACE ALL THOSE CAPABILITIES, BUT ONLY ONE YEAR TO REPLACE THAT PART NECESSARY TO VERIFY SALT COMPLIANCE.

TURNER SAID THERE WAS NO CONFLICT BETWEEN HIS ASSESSMENT AND BROWN'S BUT DECLINED FURTHER PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE ISSUE.